

217p/pneu/60

16th August, 1960.

Jocelyn Morton, Esq.,
Eden Key,
Starwix,
Carlisle.

My dear Jocelyn,

Very many thanks for all the trouble you have taken to help solve the difficult problems of how best to maintain and improve the traditions of the Movement and letting us have your views.

Your opinion must always command respect; always, that is to say provided they are really your own views, rather gathered from your letters that in feeling your way, you may have accepted other views which you might not have held so firmly had there been an opportunity for more informal discussion. However, no more telling argument in favour of a merger could be advanced than what you say about there being a common degree of attachment to the ideas of the Movement but a divergence of views among some of those working for it with regard to what types of activity are vital to the Movement and what are not. I entirely agree that this, and not finance or any of the other matters that loom large from time to time is the real core of the problem. May I add this comment? Views as to what types of activity are vital and what are not, cannot be as freely expressed as is essential if the staff of the departments concerned are present during the discussions. Nor will they be as sure and sound as they should be if there has not been informal discussion before any official meeting by, at least, a nucleus of those who have the concern of the Movement as distinct from any part of it deeply at heart.

I still think it would be most efficacious if you and I were occasionally to meet and have a talk; at least I am sure I should benefit greatly. I have the feeling that the substantial proportion of the Foundation Council knows little of the part the F.F.W.U. plays in the Movement and less about the Charlotte Mason Schools Company. I wonder whether you would agree with me that it is not necessary to tell one another about the views of rival Killingtons (mostly staff or staff-inspired) as to discuss the broad positive policies we should

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follow to keep the Movement alive or put it back on lines which will perpetuate its tradition of influencing and leading contemporary educational opinion.

May I hope you have a wonderful holiday? Thank you for your good wishes for mine; I immensely enjoy Donegal where I sketch and walk and swim. We have a minimum of 4 people under one roof who are members both of the P.E.U. Committee and C.M.E. Council and always several others concerned with the Movement.

I enclose a copy of a letter I have sent to Mrs. Walton and I am sending Mr. Franklin and her a copy of this letter.

Yours ever,

BASIL

218/p1pneu/60

34 TEDWORTH SQUARE · CHELSEA · S.W. 3

Flaxman 8722

September 10, 1960

Jean Mc Franklin,

Thank you v. much for yr
letter of September 8 & in particular
for yr. kindly warning about not
putting the submissions in a position
in which they have to be included.
I will certainly see this is taken
up — and am so glad I consulted
you, or we might have (or certainly
we have) put our foot in it.

I enclose a copy of Mr. Karpis's
paper for item (a) of the Agenda
for the meeting of the Mayor sub-
committee. (I sent the original
papers to you by post yesterday
as without them you might

(1)

kind difficulty in following the
 community). (It will of
 course require attention
 in the Baboum in the light
 of the letter.

I filled in the number of
 persons involved in the two
 organisations (43) from old list
 in my possession - but I was
 like this checked. For instance Edg.
 Baboum is not in my CMF list
 (nor is H. Baboum). How are
 they on the CMF Council? Is it
 by custom, tradition or in the
 constitution? If they are on they
 ought to be considered for the
 awards. So there may be others.
 Miss Moran was not on my CMF
 list but I remembered she was on
 both.

34 TEDWORTH SQUARE · CHELSEA · S.W. 3

Flaxman 8722

I am so glad you agree w. a
sub-committee to arrange the PDS
We can think about this a little
later on

I am going to suggest to
Mrs Wotton that the Agenda for
the meeting of the CMF on October
19 shd. be as short as possible
I that we try to get through the
business as quickly as is consistent
w. giving it proper consideration.

I am glad you agree about
Miss Hardcastle; I hope Michael
does too. He did mention something
about pensions or parting gifts at
the last CMF meeting; but I think
he was only referring to a cook.

I think the whole question of
 who speaks on pensions v. Filial
 — and in future I think
 it ought not. (even for works)
 to be brought up in open meeting
 w. staff present; simply because, if
 you persist in the works there is
 a precedent for pensioning or
 giving having presents to others. I
 rather feel the previous shd. be
 (a) to raise the question by confidential
 letter to the chairman (b) if there is any
 doubt to have an informal discussion
 w. few of those members of high
 standing in the Movement or (c) if
 the point is not resolved only to
 discuss it in general meeting
 without staff being in attendance.

yours sincerely
 Paul.

29/9/1960

34 TEDWORTH SQUARE · CHELSEA · S.W. 3

Flaxman 8722

September 15
1960

Dear Mrs Franklin

Just a line to welcome
you home & to thank
you for the most useful
briefing for yesterday's
meeting of the Mergers
Sub-committee. I think
all went satisfactorily
— really v. satisfactorily
considering — but
Michael will fill you
in on details.

2492 pneu 160

I enclose a letter
from Robert Nuttall
about resigning owing
to pressure of other
work from the Hon.
Presidency. I am
afraid it looks as tho
we shd. have to
look for someone else;
can you think of
anyone?

Yours ever
Basil

220/pa/160

16th August, 1960.

Mrs. Walton,
Galleons,
Higher Lane,
Burbles, Llanes.

Dear Mrs. Walton,

Thank you very much for your letter of 15th August confirming your kind invitation to stay with you on my way back from Ireland.

I would love to come and stay; and I sincerely hope that there may be a little time in which we can re-align any divergence of views which I am sure are more apparent than real about how best to foster and guide the Movement in the light of present circumstances and contemporary educational thought.

My present plans, subject, of course to possible alteration to fit in with what is convenient to a house 40 miles from a railway station, are as follows:-

Dep. 1st.	Dep. Donegal via Belfast.
" 2nd.	Arr. Liverpool
" " 9.5 a.m.	Dep. Liverpool (Lime Street)
10.14	Arr. Grange
1.30	Dep. Grange
3.50 p.m.	Arr. Llanes
" 3rd, 4th.	Stay Galleons.
" 5th	Dep. for London.

I have taken the necessary steps to call the meeting for 10 a.m. on Wednesday 14th September and I think the 2 hon. treasurers, as you suggest, should be invited to be present. Would you very kindly invite Mr. Watkin and I will see whether Mr. Pottall can attend, though I am rather doubtful. Would you also very kindly invite Mr. Ranger? I have done so and he, with his characteristic observation of the proprieties, said he would like the invitation to issue jointly from you and me. I also feel on this occasion, it would be unnecessary and possibly embarrassing to have my staff present. Under the existing Memorandum and Articles of Association of the 2 organisations they cannot take any active part; and the sole responsibility for translating the views of the sub-committee

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into preparatory documents for consideration by the P.N.E.U.
committee and C.M.F. Council will be for Mr. Ranger.

I enclose a copy of a letter I have sent to
Jocelyn Morton and I am sending Mrs. Franklin and him a copy
of this letter.

Yours ever,

(Signed) BASIL MARSDEN-SMEDLEY

24/10/1960

34 BEDWORTH SQUARE · CHELSEA · S.W. 3

Flaxman 8722

The Hon. Mrs. Franklin, C.B.E.,
Glenalla,
Ray,
Letterkenny,
Co. Donegal.

With compliments.

22/1/2/1960

8th September, 1960.

Mrs. Walton,
Galleons,
Highfield Lane, Mumbles,
Swansea.

I had a very pleasant interview with Mr. Ranger this morning in which we discussed proposals for settling the constitution of the new merged Council and some of the points you and I considered in the draft documents to be considered next Wednesday.

With regard to the constitution, he thoroughly approved in principle of what we both had in mind with regard to eliminating nominated members and ensuring equality and fairness of representation between the 2 organisations. He thought, however, that we had done more than we need in including the whole machinery in the draft letter document C. He suggested outlining the principles there and detailing the machinery elsewhere. He would also like the merger sub-committee to consider whether the procedure could not be somewhat simplified. I think there might well be ways of doing this; but I do not want to cut corners if there is any chance of misunderstanding or feeling that there has been any unfairness. I left it to Mr. Ranger to put his suggestions into a form of a draft which we could consider at the sub-committee.

With regard to suggested amendments I told Mr. Ranger that Miss Cholmondeley wanted to include in some definite place in the draft documents, the agreed principle that the name "founder Charlotte Mason" be printed on letter headings and on every other suitable place. He agreed that this should go at the end of paragraph 2 of document B; I also suggested that we might find some place in the Memorandum of Association. I do not think it is suitable for inclusion in the Articles.

I mentioned that in the little history of the Movement in the draft letter we had omitted any reference to the Parents' Review. I suggested that on page 2 of document C after line 1, we should insert some such sentence as "it publishes, each month, the Parents' Review which was founded by Charlotte Mason in 1890

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and continues to serve as the organ of the whole Movement". On that page I also mentioned that in paragraph 2, line 3, it would be more accurate to say instead of "after her death" the words "in 1950".

Mrs. Franklin was concerned to ensure that the synopsis was included. In fact it will be because it is at present in the Memorandum of Association (as you and I verified) and is not in the Articles of Association. The Memorandum was not circulated with the Articles because no change was contemplated.

Mrs. Franklin also wanted to be assured that the new Council could appoint committees and sub-committees; this is provided by paragraph 58 in the Articles, document G.

There was also the point about both parents being members. Mr. Ranger will be considering the necessary amendments to the Articles to ensure that this very important point of policy continues but that only 1 vote can be registered. The paragraphs of the Articles involved are 1, 7 and 29.

The question of waiving annual subscriptions is an important one or we may well have difficulty in getting the right people on to the Council. I therefore consulted him about Article 39. Mr. Ranger said that the word "payable" in that Article took into account the provisions of Article 6 but that he would think about making the point more obvious.

There will be a number of consequential alterations, e.g., Articles 36, 37 and 38 will come out and there will be a number of other similar amendments.

I feel rather badly about you not visiting your father and so, of course, if you think you would like to go I am sure we could arrange something. At the same time I should like to have you for lunch very much; and it is true there may be things to discuss afterwards informally. I have in mind the possibility that at some stage we should make lists of the persons involved by the various suggestions for the new constitution. It is, of course, possible that someone may refer to this at the meeting of the sub-committee. Apart from this, although the meeting looks important, owing to the amount of paper circulated, a great deal of the work has been done in advance of the meeting; at any rate, the work of explaining what it is all about so it is just possible that the meeting may be much shorter than you and I originally thought. However, my experience of meetings is that you can never tell what points will be raised and how long the discussions may

i21p4pneu/60

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Mrs. Walton.

8th September, 1960.

take.

I had a letter from Mrs. Bailey this morning to say that she would have some difficulty in getting up from Birmingham by 10 a.m. My wife has written to her and asked whether she would stay the night before the meeting. I hope she will be able to do this.

I am sending a copy of this letter to Mr. Ranger.

22p/1pneu60

34 TEDWORTH SQUARE · CHELSEA · S.W.3

Flaxman 8722

January 12, 1960

Dear Mr Franklin,

Thank you for yr. letter of January 11 about the little paper I circulated hoping it might help in our deliberations about banking arrangements for the new PNEU.

With regard to your first comment about the future connection between the PNEU and Charlotte Mason College, there is a difference between what some of us hope for and what others expect to get. We can no longer control the situation, as we would in theory when we owned the college — but we have our form representatives on the governing body. In practice, however, behind the less-important educational policy

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more came before the Foundation
let alone the PNEV as the reports
did not deal with such matters. I hope
this will now be changed although
it means a change in our work
by the Ambassadors. It will, I hope
be one of the more important problems
of the new Council to be kept informed
of matters affecting the Church & Mason
educational policy both in the
College & the P.V.S. The first report of
the Major Subcommittee (circulated with
the minutes of the sub-committee meeting
held December 8, 1959) expressed the hope
(in a passage adopted by Evelyn Morley
that the responsible officers (on the LEA
Committee) would take an active
part and might, in their turn, wish
to refer from time to time for advice
and instructions to the PNEV. In
the first instance this will be (if
something like my suggestions are agreed
to) to Committee (a) who will
report of course to the next meeting
of the Council. It may prove burdensome

34 TEDWORTH SQUARE · CHELSEA · S.W. 3

Flaxman 8722

To produce these reports. But I
 regard it as the most important part
 of our work in that ~~the~~ what is
 put out by the Group and the PDS
 as Charlotte Mason philosophy & teaching
 is the end purpose of all our labours.
 The Council must know what is being
 done in its name & consider all
 variations or new suggestions for
 policy. One of the reasons for the
 recent decline in the prestige of the
 movement is the insularity of
 Ambleside. The Council really do
 not know what is going on. This
 is bad for Ambleside & may well be
 confirmed in people of value declining
 to serve. ^{on the Council} The story of Charlotte Mason &
 other sources of information, show
 how different things were in the
 (3)

early days when you and ~~the~~ Charlotte Mason were leading the movement to its pinnacle and the leading figures in the educational world — and indeed the leading figures in the thinking world — were all talking about what it all meant. There was no Ambler's insularity then — and there must not be, I hope, any in the future. The result will be, I hope, that the PDS and the College will be impressed by the Movement which has a world-wide appeal and that its influence will be felt and followed in both organisations and its philosophy will continue to be spread far and wide.

With regard to your second comment I entirely agree that it is essential that the cost of overhead or common services should be borne by the contributing departments in a fairly

(4)

is2p5pneu166

34 TEDWORTH SQUARE · CHELSEA · S.W.3

Flaxman 8722

appropriated amount. It is infinitely
wrong that the cost of common
services has in the past fallen
entirely on the PNEU. I am sure
the Finance Subcommittee when
we meet on Tuesday will give
guarantee at this point. I
take it that you surely would
mean substituting for the last
sentence of paper II one which
provided that all receipts by the
PUS should be paid into the
London account which would
then become the account for departments
(A) (K) and (L). There would also
have to be a redrafting in paragraph
3 of Paper I and paragraph 5
will have to have the sum
(5)

of £2500 increased by the amount it will be necessary for payment of P.V.S. expenses.

I rather quail before the task of fixing all these matters up. The fact that the leading figures in the CMF are in such widely separated localities makes agreeing points of policy quickly very difficult. Ambrose has not been helpful; and the whole Movement obviously wants uniting and galvanising to fresh activities. In the mean time the Movement must be reorganised quickly as it won't go on for long as it is. It all seems very difficult.

V. many thanks again for yr. letter & kind interest.

P.S. I am sending copies of your letter & my reply to Mr. Nathan & Mr. Joss. (6) Best regards from me

223pl/pneul60

PARENTS' NATIONAL EDUCATIONAL UNION

(Founded 1888

Incorporated 1921)

TELEPHONE ABBEY 7181/2

MURRAY HOUSE, VANDON STREET,
LONDON, S.W.1.

(near St. James's Park Underground Station)

13.1.61.

The Hon. Mrs. Franklin, C.B.E.

WITH THE GENERAL SECRETARY'S COMPLIMENTS

In sending on this letter to you, we have enclosed a typed copy as you may find it easier to read; we did an extra one when it was copied for Mr. Joss and Mr. Nuttall.

23/Jan/60

COPY.

34, Tedworth Square,
Chelsea, S.W.3.

12th. January, 1961.

Dear Mrs. Franklin,

Thank you for your letter of January 11th. about the little paper I circulated hoping it might help in our deliberations about banking arrangements for the new P.N.E.U.

With regard to your first comment about the future connection between the P.N.E.U. and Charlotte Mason College, there is a difference between what some of us hope for and what others expect to get. We can no longer control the situation, as we could in theory when we owned the College, but we have our four representatives on the governing body. In practice, however, hitherto the all-important educational policy never came before the Foundation, let alone the P.N.E.U., as the reports did not deal with such matters. I hope this will now be changed although it means a change in outlook by the Amblesiders. It will, I hope, be one of the more important functions of the new Council to be kept informed of matters affecting Charlotte Mason educational policy both in the College and the P.U.S. The first report of the Merger Sub-Committee (circulated with the Minutes of the Sub-Committee meeting held December 8th., 1960) expressed the hope (in a passage redrafted by Jocelyn Norton) that the representatives (on the L.E.A. Committee) would take an active part and might in their turn, wish to refer from time to time for advice and instructions to the P.N.E.U. In the first instance this will be (if something like my suggestions are agreed to) to Committee (a) who will report of course to the next meeting of the Council. It may prove burdensome to produce these reports, but I regard it as the most important part of our work, in that what is put out by the College and the P.U.S. as Charlotte Mason philosophy and teaching is the end and purpose of all our labours. The Council must know what is being done in its name and consider all variations or new suggestions for policy. One of the reasons for the recent decline in the prestige of the movement is the insularity of Ambleside. The Council really do not know what is going on. This is bad for Ambleside and may result if continued in people of value declining to serve on the Council. The Story of Charlotte Mason and other sources of information show how different things were in the early days when you and Charlotte Mason were leading the movement to its pinnacle and the leading figures in the educational world - and indeed the leading figures in the thinking world - were all talking about what it all meant. There was no Ambleside insularity then and there must not be, I hope, any in the future. The result will

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- 2 -

be, I hope, that the P.U.S. and the College will be impressed by the Movement which has a world-wide appeal and that its influence will be felt and followed in both organisations and its philosophy will continue to be spread far and wide.

With regard to your second comment I entirely agree that it is essential that the cost of overheads or common services should be borne by the benefitting departments in a fairly apportioned amount. It is entirely wrong that the cost of common services has in the past fallen entirely on the P.M.E.U. I am sure the Finance Sub-Committee, when we meet on Thursday, will give great attention to this point. I take it that your remedy would mean substituting for the last sentence of paper II one which provided that all receipts by the P.U.S. should be paid into the London account which would then become the account for departments (a), (c) and (d). There would also have to be a redrafting in paragraph 3 of paper I and paragraph 5 will have to have the sum of £2,500 increased by the amount necessary for payment of P.U.S. expenses.

I rather quail before the task of fixing all these matters up. The fact that the leading figures in the G.M.F. are in such widely separated localities makes agreeing points of policy quickly very difficult. Ambleside have not been helpful; and the whole Movement obviously wants uniting and galvanising to fresh activities. In the meantime the Movement must be reorganised quickly as it won't go on for long as it is. It all seems very difficult.

Very many thanks again for your letter and kind interest.

Yours ever,

Signed: BASIL MARSDEN-SMEDLEY.

P.S. I am sending copies of your letter and my reply to Mr. Nuttall and Mr. Joss.